

1. A method for producing a Portable Document Format (PDF) document from data in an Extensible Markup Language (XML), comprising the steps of:

providing an Extensible Stylesheet Language Template (XSLT) transformer having an input and an output and being adapted to respond to XSLT instructions to vary the format of data received at the input;

introducing the XML data to the XSLT transformer at the input of the transformer;

providing XSLT instructions to the XSLT transformer;

responding to the XSLT instructions to vary the format of the XML data at the input; and

outputting the data from the output of the XSLT transformer in a Form Document Format (FDF) format.

2. The method recited in Claim 1 further comprising the step of producing a Portable Document Format (PDF) document from the data in the FDF format.

3. The method recited in Claim 2 wherein the producing step includes the steps of:

providing a PDF form; and

merging the data in the FDF format into the PDF form to produce the PDF document.

4. The method recited in Claim 3 wherein the step of providing a PDF form includes the step of providing the PDF form graphically.

5. The method recited in Claim 4 wherein the step of providing the PDF form graphically includes the step of scanning a particular form to produce the PDF form.

6. Apparatus for converting data in an Extensible Markup Language (XML) language to a Portable Document Format (PDF) document, including:

an Extensible Style Sheet Language Template (XSLT);

a transformer having an input and an output, the transformer being adapted to receive the XML data at the input and having properties responsive to the XSLT template to provide the data in a Form Document Format (FDF); and

means responsive to the data in the FDF format to produce a PDF document.

7. The apparatus recited in Claim 6 wherein the means responsive to the data in the FDF format, comprises means for merging the data in the FDF format into a PDF form to produce the PDF document.

8. The apparatus recited in Claim 7 further comprising a scanner for graphically producing the PDF form.